

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 366

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “El Camino Real de  
5       Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act.”

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8               (1) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the  
9       Royal Road of the Interior), served as the primary  
10      route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico

1 City and the Spanish provincial capitals at San Juan  
 2 de Los Caballeros (1598–1600), San Gabriel (1600–  
 3 1609) and then Santa Fe (1610–1821).

4 (2) The portion of El Camino Real de Tierra  
 5 Adentro that resided in what is now the United  
 6 States extended between El Paso, Texas and present  
 7 San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, a distance of 404  
 8 miles;

9 (3) El Camino Real is a symbol of the cultural  
 10 interaction between nations and ethnic groups and  
 11 of the commercial exchange that made possible the  
 12 development and growth of the borderland;

13 (4) American Indian groups, especially the  
 14 Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande, developed trails  
 15 for trade long before Europeans arrived;

16 (5) In 1598, Juan de Oñate led a Spanish mili-  
 17 tary expedition along those trails to establish the  
 18 northern portion of El Camino Real;

19 (6) During the Mexican National Period and  
 20 part of the U.S. Territorial Period, El Camino Real  
 21 de Tierra Adentro facilitated the emigration of peo-  
 22 ple to New Mexico and other areas that would be-  
 23 come the United States;

24 (7) The exploration, conquest, colonization, set-  
 25 tlement, religious conversion, and military occupa-

1       tion of a large area of the borderlands was made  
2       possible by this route, whose historical period ex-  
3       tended from 1598 to 1882;

4           (8) American Indians, European emigrants,  
5       miners, ranchers, soldiers, and missionaries used El  
6       Camino Real during the historic development of the  
7       borderlands. These travelers promoted cultural inter-  
8       action among Spaniards, other Europeans, American  
9       Indians, Mexicans, and Americans;

10          (9) El Camino Real fostered the spread of Ca-  
11       tholicism, mining, an extensive network of com-  
12       merce, and ethnic and cultural traditions including  
13       music, folklore, medicine, foods, architecture, lan-  
14       guage, place names, irrigation systems, and Spanish  
15       law.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

17       Section 5 (a) of the National Trails System Act (16  
18 U.S.C. 1244 (a)) is amended—

19           (1) by designating the paragraphs relating to  
20       the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Ex-  
21       press National Historic Trail, and the Selma to  
22       Montgomery National Historic Trail as paragraphs  
23       (18), (19), and (20), respectively; and

24           (2) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(21) EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA  
2       ADENTRO.—

3           “(A) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro  
4       (the Royal Road of the Interior) National His-  
5       toric Trail, a 404 mile long trail from the Rio  
6       Grande near El Paso, Texas to present San  
7       Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, as generally depicted  
8       on the maps entitled ‘United States Route: El  
9       Camino Real de Tierra Adentro’, contained in  
10      the report prepared pursuant to subsection (b)  
11      entitled ‘National Historic Trail Feasibility  
12      Study and Environmental Assessment: El Ca-  
13      mino Real de Tierra Adentro, Texas-New Mex-  
14      ico’, dated March 1997.

15          “(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the  
16      trail shall be on file and available for public in-  
17      spection in the Office of the National Park  
18      Service, Department of Interior.

19          “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail shall  
20      be administered by the Secretary of the Inte-  
21      rior.

22          “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—No lands or in-  
23      terests therein outside the exterior boundaries  
24      of any federally administered area may be ac-  
25      quired by the Federal Government for El Ca-

1           mino Real de Tierra Adentro except with the  
2           consent of the owner thereof.

3           “(E) VOLUNTEER GROUPS; CONSULTA-  
4           TION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

5                   “(i) encourage volunteer trail groups  
6                   to participate in the development and  
7                   maintenance of the trail; and

8                   “(ii) consult with other affected Fed-  
9                   eral, State, and tribal agencies in the ad-  
10                  ministration of the trail.

11           “(F) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The  
12           Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with  
13           United States and Mexican public and non-gov-  
14           ernmental organizations, academic institutions,  
15           and, in consultation with the Secretary of State,  
16           the government of Mexico and its political sub-  
17           divisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail in-  
18           formation and research, fostering trail preserva-  
19           tion and educational programs, providing tech-  
20           nical assistance, and working to establish an  
21           international historic trail with complementary  
22           preservation and education programs in each  
23           nation.”.

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